

Amusements and Meetings Co-Night.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.—King Lear. "School for Scandal." **GRAND OPERA HOUSE.**—Crawford A. Z. **LYCUM THEATRE.**—King Richard II. **BOOTH'S THEATRE.**—King Lear. **OLYMPIC THEATRE.**—Variety. **PARK THEATRE.**—Variety. **ST. FRANCIS MINISTERS.**—Twenty-third Street Opera House—Kelly & Leon's. **WALLACE'S THEATRE.**—Forbidden Fruit.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN.—Johnston Art Collection. **ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**—230 1/2 Madison Avenue. **ASSOCIATION HALL.**—Lecture. A. P. Durban. **GILMORE'S GARDEN.**—2 and 3. **BARNUM'S ENTERTAINMENT.**—**HALL'S WONDER THEATRE.**—Magical and Musical Performance. **LYRIC HALL.**—Fremont's Reception. **MONTE TEMPLE.**—Cromwell's Illustrations. **NEW-YORK AQUARIUM.**—Day and Evening. **STREETWAY HALL.**—Concert. **ESSEX.**—Thomas. **TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT ARMORY.**—Concert. **ARBUCKLE.** **UNION SQUARE THEATRE.**—2. Meeting, members of company.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1876.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Brent's rearrest in England was at the instance of the American Legation. Russian officers in the Serbian service who have been on furlough are to return at once to their regiments. Large orders for arms and ammunition have been given by Serbia and Roumania. In Mexico President Lerdo has fled from the capital, and Porfirio Diaz has proclaimed himself Provisional President.

DOMESTIC.—Gov. Chamberlain was inaugurated in South Columbia and delivered a striking address; Wade Hampton publishes a card in reply to an attack upon him in the address. Republicans in Washington declare that Oregon cannot be deprived of her three votes for Hayes. Mr. Hewitt and Senator Randolph called on the President to ask him to withdraw troops from the Capitol at Columbia, S. C., and received a very emphatic reply from the President. It is believed that E. K. Apgar will be appointed State Controller. Mr. Randall and Mr. Ferry have both virtually defined their positions with respect to the Twenty-second Joint Rule; the former holds it to be in force, the latter not.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The loss of life by the Brooklyn calamity cannot have been much if any less than 370. The coroner reports 292 bodies recovered; 300 persons are declared to be missing, but this number will probably be reduced; 178 bodies have been identified. John Kelly succeeds Mr. Green as Controller, the latter retiring quietly. William C. Whitney has been appointed and confirmed as Corporation Counsel. Gold, 108, 107 1/2, 107 1/2. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 92 1/2 cents. Stocks in speculations and higher, but generally dull, closing irregular and feverish.

THE WEATHER.—THE TRIBUNE'S local observations indicate cloudy weather, with little change in temperature. In this city yesterday it was generally clear. Thermometer, 32°, 43°, 37°.

The Democratic House has not decided yet who ought to be made the Democratic leader, but Mr. Fernando Wood's mind is evidently made up.

The Park Commissioners' case grows clearer. Mr. O'Donoghue is quietly evolved from the Mayor's statement that he has vacated his office by taking that of Presidential elector. This leaves Mr. Martin sadly alone. Meanwhile he keeps on proving that the city ought to pay more for labor than other employers. Mr. Martin will soon reënter politics as the "laboring man's friend"—if the laboring man is a fool.

The Virginia Senate was in a solemn mood yesterday about the recent presence of soldiers in that State, and would not allow a colored member to be sworn in until it had made up its mind whether "the full choice of the people was controlled by the intervention of the military forces of the United States," &c. The "military forces" consisted of ten men in command of a second lieutenant. This is what might be called intimidation of a mild type.

Gov. Chamberlain's inaugural speech yesterday rings with the earnestness of a man who is weary of struggling to prevent a great wrong, but proposes to fight to the last. And yet he exhibits little of the heat and bitterness which might be expected from him, and none of that bad temper that, we are sorry to see, characterizes Wade Hampton's address made in reply to the speech. Gov. Chamberlain had provocations enough for harsh words, if he chose to employ them. He speaks as a man feeling himself under great weight of responsibility and borne down with suffering for a cause to which he must adhere. It is a manly speech, and will win him friends.

Do the theaters, churches, and public halls of this city afford safe means of egress for panic-stricken crowds? The Superintendent of Public Buildings thinks that they do, with

few exceptions. He admits, however, that since the appropriations of his department have run low, he has stepped short in his system of supervision. As to insisting that means for extinguishing fire shall be provided, that is not in his department. Well, there is no danger that an excess of precaution will be taken by the owners of buildings. The officials who have such matters under their control will find the public ready to pardon even some superfluous zeal that has in view the protection of human life.

Both Houses of Congress seem to have forgotten that this is to be a short session, and there is work to be done. The House did make yesterday a slight attempt at the transaction of business, but the Senate talked nothing but politics all day—first Louisiana and then Oregon. There is such a well-assured prospect of a flood of debate on this business that the people will be somewhat alarmed to see the torrent in motion so early. If Congress is wise it will go about its business at once, and dispose of it as soon as possible. The time is short, and the last third of it, at least, is likely to be wholly occupied with the contest over the Presidency.

Upon few classes in the community are heavier demands made for the purposes of charity than the dramatic profession, and few are more prompt and liberal in their response. This quick sympathy all the circumstances attending the Brooklyn horror were of a nature to arouse, and the meeting of actors yesterday gave it expression. The step which it is proposed to urge upon the managers of all theaters throughout the country, to devote the proceeds of one performance to the sufferers by the fire, ought to make ample provision for every want. There is an especial heartiness in the action of the actors and managers which seems to recognize, as the public does, poetic justice in the redress by the theater of the injury which the theater has wrought.

Happily the roll of the dead in Brooklyn has not grown longer. Indeed, the total is now slightly reduced from the figure given yesterday. The list of the missing as given at the police station is about 370, but the number of bodies removed is but 292, and, according to the lists of the police, less than 250. The latter count, however, is undoubtedly too small, and resulted from the failure to distinguish between fragments of different bodies. The number identified and removed thus far is 178. Excitement still runs high. Action has been taken by the authorities looking to a burial by the city of all bodies unidentified, and to some general demonstration of the sorrow that has fallen upon the city. Measures have been also taken for affording immediate relief to all sufferers.

In Mexico the revolution has triumphed. President Lerdo has fled from the capital, which Gen. Porfirio Diaz has entered in triumph and declared himself Provisional President. This success is attributable to the insidious power of conspiracy, since Diaz had apparently made little progress since he fled from Matamoros and made his way stealthily to Oaxaca. He will find it difficult to maintain the ascendancy he has so suddenly acquired. He is opposed by President Lerdo, who reasserts his authority from Morelia. He is also confronted by Iglesias, who claims to be President in virtue of his office as Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court. His chief dependence is, of course, on the army. The situation is on the whole alarming, and would warrant the greatest vigilance for the protection of American interests.

THE TRIBUNE, on the 16th of November, gave to New-York its first intimation that Mr. John Kelly was to be the next Controller. The journals which rely upon their prejudices instead of their reporters for their news, were prompt in discrediting the statement; and quite possibly intelligent readers were for a little time deceived by the preliminary maneuver of sending in the name of Mr. Thayer, in order to tide over a crisis in the Board of Aldermen. The nomination has now, however, been made, exactly according to the programme which THE TRIBUNE announced. Mr. Kelly has been confirmed, Mr. Green has surrendered the office without resistance, and Mr. Kelly is in full possession. Corporation Counsel Whitney has also been confirmed, and is, therefore, in his seat for the next four years. We think both will make good officers. Mr. Whitney's career thus far has been thoroughly creditable, and Mr. Kelly's shortcomings, whatever they may be, are not in the direction of looseness with the public money, or lack of the most scrupulous integrity.

THE TWADDLE OF IMPEACHMENT.

Speaker Randall seems to be an uncommonly earnest person. Not always wise, but apparently always profoundly impressed with the necessity of "doing something," and greatly enthusiastic in going ahead to do it. It was Mr. Randall who at the last session of this Congress urged, and persisted in urging, the importance to the Democratic party of the "doing something" in the way of retrenchment. It was necessary, he thought, to impress upon the people the idea that the Great Democratic Party was the party of retrenchment and reform, and so he advocated such sweeping reductions in the appropriations as made even his own political associates stand aghast. And it was currently reported and generally believed that the debt of gratitude the country was under to Congress for sitting and sitting and wearing the patience of the people away into the middle of the last Summer, was due principally to Mr. Randall, who insisted on staying and peeling the appropriations down to a point where the departments would be crippled, and the Democratic party would be enabled to point with pride to its great policy of retrenchment. He did that work exceedingly well. It was easier to do than it would have been if his own party had been in power and the work of retrenchment had cut into the emoluments of his own friends; but he did it, and as soon as it was over the whole crowd of leaders and followers, orators and oracles, rushed to the country with the cry that the party had saved thirty millions in the appropriations. Mr. Randall is a very stubborn person, and is constantly bent on "doing something" for the party. The something he now seems bent on doing is to impeach President Grant. He intimated it in his address upon taking the Speaker's chair, and now he has been urging it up with his usual pertinacity. Not that anything can be effected by it beyond a little unnecessary mud-flinging at a retiring officer; not that he has any sort of hope of a conviction, for that is wildly improbable, but because he feels the

necessity for doing something, and that seems nearest his hand.

We take leave to advise Mr. Randall to stop where he is. Any attempt to impeach the President will injure no one so much as those engaged in it. THE TRIBUNE hardly needs to say that it has no great admiration for President Grant as an administrator of civil affairs. It has had occasion to criticize his policy and his acts frequently and freely during the past eight years. Commending frankly whatever he did that deserved praise, it has never hesitated to condemn whatever merited censure in his administration, and there has been so much of this and so little of the other that the attitude of THE TRIBUNE has been almost uniformly that of opposition. But it has never lost sight of the fact that with all his amazing blunders he has seemed to be honest in his beliefs, and sincere, if obstinate, in his convictions of duty. More than that, the great mass of the American people believe in him. They admit that he has erred in judgment; that he has made bad appointments; that he has mistaken the meaning of his election, and used the high office he was called to as a personal belonging instead of an official trust, and that in many ways his administration has been anything but a success. But back of all this they give him credit for personal uprightness and integrity, and they will not judge harshly, or allow others to judge harshly, the man who led our armies to victory and put down the great rebellion. And we take leave to suggest further to Mr. Randall that his party is not yet sufficiently strong to take the risk involved in an effort to impeach the man who eleven years ago received the sword of Gen. Lee and the surrender of the Confederate army. There are a great many thousands of men at the North who, whatever their opinions may be of President Grant as a civil officer, would look upon the list of Democratic members voting for impeachment and read, not the names of officers and men of the Confederate army which Grant vanquished, and supporters of the Confederacy which Grant destroyed. Do we need remind Mr. Randall that the people of this country have a very kindly feeling toward President Grant for other reasons than those connected with his administration of civil affairs? Upon the whole, cannot Mr. Randall himself see that the attempt to impeach Gen. Grant so early in the game would be a trifle abrupt?

The Speaker may learn discretion from his party friends at the South, who are understood to be opposed to any such rash venture. They are too well aware of its significance and understand too well the effect it would have upon the public mind to give it any countenance or encouragement. In this respect they show much more sense than their Northern allies and associates. It is not strange that Mr. Fernando Wood should support the proposition. But before the Democratic party in Congress consents to be led in this business by Mr. Wood, the thinking men in it, if there be any such, will do well to consider for a single moment the record of Mr. Wood and the record of Gen. Grant during the war, and the singular significance of the spectacle when, in the first Democratic Congress following the war, Mr. Fernando Wood presents and his party adopts articles of impeachment against the soldier who commanded our armies, and brought to grief and disaster the rebellion with which Mr. Wood sympathized. The people of the North are not ready for that. And what is more, the Representatives of the South, with a clearer view of the situation than their Northern allies, know they are not. Mr. Randall and Mr. Wood and the other hot advocates of impeachment are making the mistake of their lives. Impeachment, under the circumstances, would damage them and their party, and rather help than hurt the President.

BEATEN BY THEIR OWN TRICK.

Of course the Democrats have no expectation that the thin game they played in Oregon can be successful. They do not pretend to the least doubt about the will of the people of the State. The majority voted against all the Democratic candidates for electors, and it is certain, therefore, that none of those Democratic candidates were fairly elected, and that no vote from any of them can justly be counted. It is not probable that the Democrats had the least expectation that it would be. What they want is to use Oregon as a lever to pry open the whole question of the action taken by the various Returning Boards. The Republicans have maintained that there is no power which can go behind or reverse the decision of a Returning Board; that its work is final and subject to no review. The Democrats thereupon find a Governor reckless enough to violate his official oath, and give a certificate to a man notoriously defeated. They argue that if the Republicans acquiesce Tilden is elected; if they resist they can only do so by asserting the right to go behind the decision of a Returning Board, and thus open up the cases of all the disputed States. It looked like a shrewd trick in a desperate game.

But they overreached themselves. Their bogus elector has to forward his certificate from the Governor. The President of the Senate finds there the certificates also of two Republican electors lawfully elected. He sees that they are the majority of the Board, and that their election is unquestioned, and that they filled the vacancy of one in the lawful manner, just as the bogus elector proceeded to fill the vacancy of two. He recognizes this as obviously the true Board, counts their vote, and the Democratic conspiracy vanishes into thin air.

—But what a party this of Mr. Tilden's is for "scrupulously respecting the declared will of the people!"

WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

Certificates purporting to be electoral votes, showing 195 votes for Hayes and Wheeler, and 206 votes for Tilden and Hendricks, will be forwarded by messengers and delivered to the President of the Senate. Of these, 10 votes from Alabama for Hayes, and 19 from Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana for Tilden, will be forwarded by persons who have not certificates of election from the proper State officers. From Oregon, 3 for Hayes will be forwarded by persons two of whom were declared elected, and 3 for Tilden will be forwarded by persons only one of whom was declared elected. Any lawyer will decide that the one person was not legally elected, and that one claimant cannot outvote the two unquestioned members in deciding upon his right to sit in the college.

A President of the Senate will be selected—probably Senator Sherman of Ohio. He, being duly informed of the names of messengers appointed by legally authorized electoral bodies, will probably refuse to receive as electoral votes the certificates forwarded by other

bodies. If thirty-five citizens had met, at Albany or elsewhere, without warrant of law, and had forwarded a pretended certificate giving the electoral votes of New-York to Peter Cooper, it would be the business of the President of the Senate to refuse to receive as electoral votes the certificate from such persons.

The Senate will investigate the disputed cases. Within a month probably the evidence will be placed before the country. Thereupon the Committee on Privileges and Elections will probably report certain resolutions, advising the President of that body that, in the judgment of the Senate, it is his duty to open the certificates from certain persons as the true electors of each disputed State. These resolutions will be debated in the light of all evidence collected by returning boards, partisan committees, and committees of the two Houses. If a sufficient number of Republicans and independents to constitute, with the Democrats, a majority of the Senate, believe that certificates from Republican electors in either State should not be opened, it is probable that the President will act upon that conclusion, and that the Republican candidates will lose the votes of that State. It will be natural and proper for the President of the Senate to give weight to its judgment, both because he is its officer, and because, the Senate sharing the Executive power, no person can be President without its recognition. If the House discusses the same questions, and arrives at different results, it can either attend at the counting of the votes, or stay away, or attend at the beginning and secede. What the House does will make no legal difference whatever in the validity of the formal opening and counting required by the Constitution.

When that counting takes place the President of the Senate will, in the language of the Constitution, "open all the certificates," but he will not open any unnecessary and worthless pieces of waste paper. If he has any doubt which is the certificate from a State, he will probably act upon the opinion of the Senate. Debate, during this proceeding, is not in order. If the House, or some members of it, or some members of both Houses, choose to go out, they can do so. Counting is a purely clerical function in this case. Any page can perform it as well as any Senator. It consists in adding up two columns of figures which the President of the Senate has announced. The responsible duty is ended when the President, having determined which are "the certificates" from the several States, has opened them. No formal announcement of the result is required by the Constitution. That supreme law simply says that the person having received a majority of the votes "shall be President." All the power of the United States Government will be employed, if necessary, to inaugurate that person and maintain him in the exercise of Executive functions. An attempt to set up any other person as President will not be made, because it would be rebellion.

In brief, then, the deliberate opinion of the majority of the Senate, after investigation and discussion, will prevail, for such are the provisions of the Constitution that nothing else can prevail. If there has been wrong done in any Southern State, we hope and believe that a majority of the Senators will see it and declare it wrong. If the certificates are held by a majority of the Senate to be in accordance with law, and expressions of the popular will, there will not be a pleasant time for any revolutionary madcap, in the House or elsewhere, who attempts to resist the decision.

THE PIKE OF THE MATTER.

The questions at issue in the Presidential dispute are now clearly set forth. On the face of the official returns, Messrs. Hayes and Wheeler have a majority of the electoral votes. But it is claimed:

I. That the return from Oregon, giving three votes for Hayes, is irregular and illegal, because not signed by the three persons to whom the Governor gave certificates.

II. That the return from Louisiana which should be counted is not the one signed by the electors holding certificates, but the one signed by persons who claim that they were elected, and are said to have been elected by another person, who claims to have been elected Governor some years ago.

We cannot conceive of a case more simple than that of Oregon. An electoral college, like a legislature, or board, or any other legal body of any kind, is obliged, when it enters upon its duties, to verify the qualifications of its members, and a majority necessarily decides. This power is unequivocally given to the electors by the law which requires them to fill vacancies in their number, for that involves the power to determine whether vacancies exist. The electors met; a majority found that one person who had not been legally elected was present, holding an illegally issued certificate. The majority thereupon declared that this person had not been legally elected, that a vacancy existed, and proceeded to fill that vacancy. No man will dispute that they could have done this, had the certificate by a mere clerical blunder been made out to John Jones, instead of John H. Jones. No sane man will deny their power to right the wrong, if, in mere wanton rascality, the Secretary of State had made out a certificate for a man who received no votes, or a minority of votes. Their power to decide upon the qualifications of a member is not less clear when the Governor, in violation of a long established rule of law, by the Democrats themselves acted upon elsewhere, declared a person to be elected who, according to his own canvass and declaration, had not received a majority of votes.

In Missouri, for example, a Democrat received a majority of votes who was not legally qualified. For the purpose of forcing the Democrats to declare the true rule of law, the Republican opponent claimed the election. The claim was denied, first by the Democratic Governor and Secretary of State, and afterward by the Democratic electors themselves, on the perfectly impregnable ground that a man against whom the majority voted cannot be elected by the fact that the one for whom the majority voted is ineligible. As a Connecticut judge mildly observed, in deciding a similar case, "Whatever may be doubted, it is perfectly certain that the people did not want 'you.' A majority vote for an ineligible candidate is simply an election of nobody. Having acted upon this rule, and properly, in the exclusion of minority claimants in Missouri and elsewhere, the Democrats must also abide by it in Oregon. Indeed, if it were possible to reverse that rule, thus letting in a Democrat who was not elected in Oregon, the same reversal would let in the Republican claimants in Missouri and two other States, and so deprive the Democrats of as many votes as the whole State of Oregon casts.

What remains? A single question of fact—whether, in certain precincts of Louisiana, the

votes of which have not been counted, such disturbance, terrorism, and violence had existed as to affect materially the result. If that condition existed, the law of Louisiana is that no legal election at such precincts was held, and that no votes from them shall be counted. If that condition did not exist at enough of these precincts to determine the result, then the decision of the Returning Board was a wrongful one, and, if made in honest but mistaken judgment upon the evidence, was a stupendous blunder; but if made in willful disregard of facts, was the most infamous of political crimes. Upon that question of fact the nation asks light—the fullest possible light.

But, upon all other questions involved in this election, the decision is already in favor of Mr. Hayes. And, in attempting to rob the people of South Carolina and Florida of a sacred right, their will having appeared upon the face of the returns; in attempting to bribe electors, in attempting to steal a vote in Vermont, and in defying all law in order to defeat the will of the people of Oregon, the Democratic leaders have already been guilty of crimes as infamous as that which they claim has been committed in Louisiana.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The world makes but slow progress, not so much in theoretically determining the responsibility of those who for a consideration undertake to serve the public, but in enforcing practically the provisions of the common and statute law. The lessee of the Brooklyn Theater would probably be much astonished to be told that the representatives of some of those who perished on Tuesday night have at least a *prima facie* case against him, and might bring an action sounding in damages. We do not say that in such a case the plaintiff would gain a verdict under the direction of the court, for that would depend somewhat upon the evidence and upon the opinion of the judge, but of the propriety of such action upon general principles there can be no doubt. Possibly the lessee might also have his action against the lessors, nor are we sure that a criminal indictment for manslaughter might not be maintained against somebody. The law as against railway corporations and the owners of steamboats is a good deal better fixed than it is enforced. That it applies equally to the proprietors of places of public resort, it would seem unnecessary to argue.

We suppose, indeed, that no right-minded lessee or owner of a theater would deny that, for the safety of life and limb in his establishment, he is bound in law to use extraordinary care. Nobody will pretend that there was anything like this at the Brooklyn Theater, for if there had been the fire could not have originated in such a way. It is useless to say that, from the nature of its construction and appointments, it is impossible adequately to guard a theater against combustion. Night after night these places are lighted, the performances go on without the fearful interruption of fire, and the spectators go home safely to their beds. If, therefore, every night the same conditions are maintained, the same preservation will be secured. These, however, it is impossible accurately to determine from an immediate and superficial observation. It becomes, therefore, necessary in the outset to exercise the best possible judgment, and so to dispose the interior of the building as to reduce the risk to a minimum. The regulations should be stringent, and the discipline such as to render a breach of them well nigh impossible. Carelessness in anybody, from the manager to the lamp-lighter, should be considered a crime, and a serious one, for to carelessness nine-tenths of such great casualties are justly attributable. It must be remembered, too, that after every precaution there is a definite remainder of risk. The problem to be solved, then, is duplex: 1st, prevention or instant extinguishment of fire; 2d, the facilities of egress should be a fire occur. It seems to us that there should be safety, at least comparative, in the simplicity of these conditions, in the consideration of which carelessness must be put down as inevitable and as a contingency also to be guarded against.

Now that the event has come, we are told that the Brooklyn Theater has always been considered unsafe; that the proper authorities have for some time regarded it with suspicion; and finally, that if the audience upon that dreadful night could have been induced to pass out in an orderly manner, probably no loss of life whatever would have occurred. In all this there is little consolation, though there may be some useful suggestion. If the proper public officers to whom such matters are intrusted knew the theater to be specially unsafe in case of a fire, then a heavy weight of responsibility for the disaster rests upon their heads. As for the chance of persuading the audience, with knowledge that the theater is on fire, to make a slow and formal exit, we may as well dismiss it at once as nothing but an absurd notion. If the crowd could be tolerably sure that there existed no peril without ample preparation for it, of course there would be much less trouble. It is said that, badly arranged as it was, the Brooklyn Theater could be emptied, however full, in from five to ten minutes. Instead of a practical assurance of this, which wide portals upon four sides would have given there was fright, mad and misdirected effort, difficulty of breathing from the smoke, and indecision from the darkness. In short, for this dire emergency, unfortunately very far from being unprecedented, the proprietors, builders, lessees, managers, and Brooklyn police, had made no preparation whatever. What came, came as a matter of course.

To say that nobody is responsible for a catastrophe thus precipitated is to talk childishly. Not to be able to find out who is responsible argues great inefficiency in our criminal processes. We only hope that New-York may not witness a repetition of the mortal mischief in Brooklyn. How is it with our theaters, every night crowded, and every night, in the absence of adequate provision against it, exposed to a similar tragedy? We do not wish to be troublesome or officious or alarmist, but it seems to us that this is just the time for asking this vitally important question. If within a year or two years we are not called upon to chronicle another holocaust, our immunity will be attributable to the providence of God, and not to the prudence of man. But all connected with the administration of theaters must admit that they have had sufficient warning. If they do not heed it, is there any reason why they should not suffer in purse or in person either for their apathy, their negligence, or their ill-judged economy?

There is another point upon which it is necessary in all seriousness to say something. Terrible "accidents," as, with utter looseness of speech, we call them, never seem to move the American people to a sense of the proverbial superiority of prevention. The same blunders are perpetrated over and over with the same murderous consequences; for nine days we

talk of each, and then make idiotic haste to forget it. It is the business of a public journal not only to record but to remember, and sadly do we remember the many fatalities, the dreary particulars, the lengthened lists of "Killed" and "Wounded" which have burdened these columns. Reluctantly we are compelled to admit that our public does not regard experience, in spite of the copy-book, as a good teacher. At any rate, it is a public which declines to be taught, if it is to be judged by its ever-recurring omissions and commissions. There appears to be some radical defect in the national character, which manifests itself in a lack of reverence for human life, an inadequate sense of our duties to each other, a levity which dismises from the memory that which for a moment has most painfully agitated the mind. We are satisfied when we have called for the passage of a new law. Sometimes it is enacted; sometimes it is not; sometimes it is enacted; it is enforced; sometimes it is not. We might be thankful for even the darkest disaster, if it could shock us, once for all, out of this lamentable frivolity. Then, and not till then, we may hold the servants of the public to a strict account.

The action of the Democratic House in regard to the Colorado member is thoroughly consistent with the systematic plan so often exposed in these columns. Colorado was a good enough State to "claim" vociferously long after everybody knew it had been carried for Hayes and Wheeler, and up to the latest available moment there will be no thimble-rigging or pettifoggery too small for Mr. Tilden's managers to practice with a view to defeat Republicans of the three electoral votes so fairly won. The original plan of howling "fraud" to cover up the crimes of Democratic ruffianism in the South before the election will now be carried on with redoubled lung power to divert attention from more recent trickery. This cry of "fraud" has a most suspicious ring when shouted by the party which inspired the illegal activity of the South Carolina crowd, which is engineering the quibble machine in Nebraska, Oregon, and Vermont, and which has outraged decency by this crowning dishonesty in the House of Representatives.

The Greenback party must bestir itself, or it will find specie payments resumed before it has had a chance to make another light for inflation. Here is gold at 107 1/2, and steadily sinking. The exports are heavy, and, in the event of a foreign war, will be a great deal heavier; while the imports are exceedingly light. Gold is steadily pouring in upon us, and a 4 1/2 per cent bond for the purpose of funding the greenbacks could certainly be placed to advantage almost immediately. The specie payment question is taking care of itself, and the number of people, other than escaped lunatics, who believe specie resumption, in accordance with the law, in 1879 an impossibility, is rapidly diminishing.

The Hand-Book of Charities, which has been published for the last two years under the auspices of the Board of United Charities, is looked upon now by all engaged in relieving the wants of the poor as a most useful auxiliary. It furnishes the names, objects, addresses and other particulars of all the charitable institutions and associations of our city, both public and private. We would call attention to the fact that the new edition will appear early next month, and that all societies which have received circulars requesting returns of work, income, and any changes since the last publication, are desired to send them in with as little delay as possible to A. H. E. Fellow, No. 18 West Thirty-third-st.

PERSONAL.

Barbara Fritchie's house is slowly turning into a canal.

Senator Burnside presents a picturesque appearance in the Senate, with a gray worsted skull-cap covering his ample brow.

Mrs. ex-Senator Henderson has affectionately dedicated her cookery-book to her friend Mrs. Gen. Sherman, "a lady who studies the comforts of her household."

The humorous writer of *The Burlington Hawkeye*, whose bright fun has sometimes soared into wit, is named Robert Burdette. Mr. Burdette—unhappily for himself, it is to be feared—is about to lecture.

Mr. Charles Warren Stoddard says that one of the inevitable and ridiculous results of a Nile cruise is that one gets to scorn anything so modern as Rome, and the affairs of the last twenty centuries seem rather youthful.

Mr. Edwin Flye, Senator Blaine's successor in the House, is a small, gray-haired man of 50 years or more, in appearance the very opposite of his strikingly handsome predecessor. *The Washington Star* reports Mr. Blaine as saying that he feels in the Senate like a cat in a strange house.

Meissonier gave the usual address at the grave of Diaz the other day. The head of Napoleon III, in one of Meissonier's pictures hung in the Luxembourg has lately been defaced by some pointed instrument while the gallery was for a moment deserted. It was a work of art.

Sir William Thomson says that there prevails in America "the truest scientific spirit and devotion, the originality, the inventiveness, the patient persevering thoroughness of work, the appreciativeness, and the generous open-mindedness and sympathy from which the great findings of science come."

Mr. Swinburne's poem of "Under the Microscope" has been classed by German publishers as a scientific work—a mistake as funny as that of the Mulrind farmers, who, as everybody knows, bought to a great extent Mr. Ruskin's "Notes on the Construction of sheepfolds," and were growingly disappointed to find it a work of art.

The little daughter of a very wealthy New-Yorker happened not long ago to hear her small school-mates contrabanding themselves and one another upon the regularity with which their fathers said grace at table. Her father did not say grace, and, oppressed by a sense of inferiority, the little one went that evening and begged him to do it. He said he thought it was time to begin, and asked a blessing with all proper fervor at breakfast next morning. A younger sister of his little homilet, a young lady still in the nursery, who had not heard the previous conversation, looked up surprised when her father cleared. "I know what you do at 'ot, papa," said she; "it's 'tuss 'you're gettin' poor!"

POLITICAL NOTES.

The great question now is—How much did Gov. Grover get?

In spite of Oregon it won't be a waste of time to practice on saying President Hayes.

The electoral system is dead without a friend, and will be buried without a mourner.

Mr. Hewitt is an able man, but he will find the keeping of the Democratic donkey's ears out of sight like the election of Tilden, too big a job for him.

The attempt to steal that missing electoral vote in Oregon, like the previous effort in Nebraska, will probably amount to nothing. Neither wind, nor bribery, nor trickery can make a President of Gov. Tilden this year.

The saddest feature of the situation to the Democratic editor—the closing of the Liberty editorial hall. He mournfully reflects that the daily and weekly installments of able editorials and crisp paragraphs have stopped forever.

The Democratic journals confess their lack of hope for Gov. Tilden's election by kindly arranging a cabinet for President Hayes. Their efforts thus far display creditable powers of imagination, and will doubtless furnish Mr. Hayes with entertaining reading.

Mr. Cronin, the Democratic elector in Oregon, who has burst into national prominence in such a loose and irregular manner, is a brother of Mr. Timothy Cronin of Brooklyn, one of the Republican electors for this State. The latter, who had the lawyer in good standing, but has never been able to absorb in all his practice so much law as his now distinguished brother laid hands on and fractured in a few hours.

"Duke" Gwin has returned to San Francisco in rather an irritable state of mind. He was of course encountered by a reporter so soon as he arrived, but the interview, which appears in *The Chronicle*, is brief and barren of information. "I do not care," he remarked, "to say anything on the subject of politics, since my connection therewith has ceased. I have taken some part in this election, but when the sun set on Nov. 7 part was performed. It was all very well while the light was on, but now that the battle is over I am particularly averse to having my name brought prominently forward."